

If anybody in the majority tells you that we're not going to put money into this program, they're not being straight with you. And if they say they're going to let this program go under because it has tough times meeting its obligations, they're not being straight with you.

It will be subsidized. It will be unfair competition. It will end up with no private-sector competition, and we will all wind up in universal health care.

IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO GET TO WORK ON REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House voted on two resolutions congratulating sports teams for winning national championships. Today, we're considering four non-controversial suspensions, just four, and one of them marking the anniversary of the birth of Confucius.

Congress just doesn't get it. We should be working on real health care reform that lowers costs and expands access to all, such as real liability reform which is not on the table. We should be working to make America more energy independent and lower costs for all. We should be working to rein in Federal spending and addressing the \$60 billion in Medicare and Medicaid fraud that we saw on "60 Minutes" on Sunday. Instead, we are congratulating sports teams and marking the birthdays of ancient philosophers.

I hope my colleagues across the aisle will get down to some real reform so that the American people can start trusting Congress again.

THE HEALTH CARE PLAN SHOULD NOT BE FINANCED BY RAIDING MEDICARE

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, as millions go without health insurance and costs skyrocket, I strongly believe we need commonsense reforms so that all American families can have access to affordable health coverage.

But the plan should not be financed by raiding the Medicare program and shifting costs onto the backs of our seniors. Seniors are being asked to shoulder the burden while getting virtually none of the benefits.

H.R. 3200 cuts Medicare by a total of \$500 billion over the next 10 years. This includes cuts to hospitals, nursing homes, life-saving imaging services, and home health care services. The bill cuts payments to Medicare Advantage plans by \$172 billion, which, according to the CBO, will force more than 3 million seniors out of plans that could no longer operate.

More than 61,000 Iowa seniors and nearly 20 percent of Medicare bene-

ficiaries nationwide are enrolled in that type of plan, which lowers premium costs by rolling health and drug coverage into one plan and negotiating with the health care providers.

MEDICARE CUTS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in order to pay for a government-run health care plan, Democrats obviously plan to cut Medicare. They call it a "savings," but it is cutting essential programs and services that are now available for our seniors.

I'm particularly concerned about the \$117 billion in cuts in the Medicare Advantage program. In my district, there are over 20,000 seniors that are enrolled in Medicare Advantage. You cannot expect that they will continue to have the same level of coverage after you cut this program by \$117 billion. Hasn't that been the President's promise all this time? If you like your insurance, you can keep your insurance?

My constituents want to keep their insurance coverage through Medicare Advantage. But cutting \$117 billion will cause providers to simply exit the Medicare Advantage program, reducing options for these seniors and preventing them from keeping the insurance of their choice.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. McCAUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, last August we went home to our constituents and we listened to the American people. The American people were loud and clear in their message, and it was: Congressman, we do not support the government's taking over our health care system.

Then we came back to Washington, D.C., away from our constituents. We've been up here for about 2 months now, and what are we seeing? We're seeing the public option being put back on the table.

And what did the President say? Well, we know what he said on the campaign. He said basically, I'm going to have all the negotiations around a big old table and we'll have the negotiations televised on C-SPAN.

Have we seen that? I don't think so.

What are we seeing today? We're seeing three Senators behind closed doors in the darkness of the night negotiate a health care plan for this entire Nation.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant. We need to bring these negotiations out on the table. Republicans need to be at the table. We have good ideas. We have good solutions. But they are not being heard and the voice of the American people is not being heard.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, health care reform should empower all Americans to choose a health care plan that offers them choice and affordability. However, the Democratic plan will only lead to higher taxes, cuts in benefits, and government's taking away our seniors' health care choices.

For seniors on fixed incomes, the prospect of being forced to pay more for health care could become a frightening reality. The Democrat plan would raise Medicare prescription drug premiums by 20 percent over the next decade and deny seniors the choice of keeping their current coverage. The Democrat plan includes \$163 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage. Up to 38,000 seniors in my district would be negatively affected by these cuts. Nothing should ever come between seniors and their doctors; yet this is exactly what the Democrat bill does.

The American people and our Nation's seniors deserve better than this reckless rush to reform.

NINE MONTHS SINCE THE STIMULUS BILL PASSED; YET AMERICANS CONTINUE TO LOSE THEIR JOBS

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, there's been a lot of talk from my friends on the other side of the aisle about the so-called improvement in the United States economy. Unfortunately, all the talk comes without the data to back it up.

Nine months ago, Congress had an opportunity to provide a real shot in the arm to our economy, and yet Americans continue to lose their jobs. While the Democratic leadership continues to push for radical and expensive changes to the American economy, such as a government-run health care system, cap-and-trade legislation, the question that should be asked every day on Capitol Hill is, simply, Where are the jobs?

When the leadership spent \$800 billion of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars with lightning speed with no review in February on the so-called "stimulus bill," the White House promised that unemployment would not exceed 8 percent. We are now at 9.8 percent nationally, 12 percent in California, and 15 percent in parts of my congressional district.

Congress certainly does not have all the answers—it rarely does—but what Congress can do is straightforward: Reduce the Federal tax burden on families and business, reduce spending, and target spending where we have real infrastructure projects.